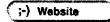
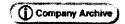


Mentor Corporation Responds to USA Today Article





SANTA BARBARA, Calif., March 23 /PRNewswire/ -- On March 23, USA Today printed an article stating that there is an open Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") investigation of Mentor Corporation (Nasdaq: MNTR) involving allegations of research irregularities.

The Company has contacted the FDA and although they have confirmed that there is an investigation stemming from 1998 manufacturing issues, Mentor is unaware, and the office of the FDA conducting the investigation, has denied that the investigation has any connection whatsoever with "allegations of serious irregularities in breast implant studies" as quoted by USA Today. Mentor has requested that USA Today provide the Company a copy of the quoted materials; however, USA Today has declined to do so.

"We have complete confidence in the integrity of our research and believe that the allegations in the article are entirely baseless," said Anthony Gette, Chief Executive Officer and President of Mentor Corporation. "Since 1998 Mentor has substantially upgraded every aspect of its manufacturing facilities and overall compliance programs. Since that time, we have had two independent expert audits and one comprehensive FDA audit which have confirmed that the Company is in substantial compliance with good manufacturing practices. We have every confidence in our Pre-Market Approval Application for saline breast implants and believe it will be approved by the FDA on schedule."

Mentor Corporation is a diverse medical products company serving a number of medical specialties including plastic and reconstructive surgery, urology, and clinical and consumer healthcare.

SOURCE Mentor Corporation

Web Site: http://www.mentorcorp.com

Company News On Call:

http://www.prnewswire.com/comp/552393.html or fax, 800-758-5804,

ext. 552393

AN NEWSWIRE

(Today's News) (Company News On-Call) (Search) (Feature News) (Automotive) (Energy) (Entertainment) (Financial) (Health/Biotech) (Hispanic) (Latin America) (Sports) (Technology) (Washington) (Mountain News) (PRN Products & Services) (Ask PRN) (Links) (PRN Events)

©1996-1999 PR Newswire. All rights reserved.

Redistribution, retransmission, republication or commercial exploitation of the contents of this site are expressly prohibited without the written consent of PR Newswire.

These pages have been optimized for Netscape v.2.0 or later